



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

Mayor's Press Office

(312) 744-3334

[press@cityofchicago.org](mailto:press@cityofchicago.org)

Department of Planning and Development (DPD)

(312) 744-9267

**High School Athletic Fields To Be Funded With TIF**

The construction of multi-sport athletic fields at two Chicago high schools will be funded with Tax Increment Financing (TIF) under a plan approved by City Council today.

In the Irving Park community, a combination soccer and baseball field will be constructed at Schurz High School through \$2.7 million in TIF assistance. Planned for the school campus at 3601 N. Milwaukee Ave., the project will include the installation of artificial turf, landscaping, fencing, and new walkways for students and community residents.

On the Near West Side, a multi-purpose field will be constructed at Whitney Young Magnet High School with \$4.3 million in TIF assistance. Planned for the school campus at 211 S. Laflin St., the project will include the installation of artificial turf, fencing, gates, and seating for use by students and area residents.

TIF will reimburse Chicago Public Schools for the entire cost of both projects. Construction is expected to be completed this year.

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**TIF to Upgrade Lighting At Portage Park Ballfields**

The Chicago Park District's \$400,000 lighting improvement project in Portage Park will be funded through Tax Increment Financing (TIF) under a plan approved by City Council today.

The new LED lighting system at 4100 N. Long Ave. in the Portage Park community will illuminate three baseball fields, enabling more flexible scheduling for games and practices.

The system will also increase safety for users of other recreational resources in the 36.5-acre park, including tennis courts, swimming complex, playground, dog-friendly area, nature walk, and other baseball, football and soccer fields.

The park's ballfields currently support approximately 425 youth participating in various leagues.

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## **Kinzie Corridor Plan Will Enable More Office and Retail Development**

Land use improvements approved for the eastern portion of the Kinzie Industrial Corridor today by City Council will provide for more commercial development while generating millions of dollars of new resources for business corridors throughout the City.

"As the downtown area continues to expand, these improvements will ensure the Kinzie Corridor supports the needs of local businesses and the entire City of Chicago," Mayor Emanuel said.

Recommended in the Department of Planning and Development's "Fulton Market Innovation District" plan, the land use changes will apply to a 63-acre area generally bounded by Ogden Avenue, Carroll Avenue, Hubbard Street and Halsted Street.

"This ordinance will ensure the resurgence of this corridor will continue and generate more economic development for the entire ward and city of Chicago," said Alderman Walter Burnett Jr. "I look forward to continuing to work with the community as we move forward with transforming this area into a vibrant commercial and residential corridor."

The improvements will accommodate an ongoing shift in employment trends in the eastern portion of the Kinzie Corridor. Since 2002, manufacturing jobs in the area have decreased by nearly 70 percent while information and technology jobs increased by more than 410 percent; finance, insurance and real estate increased by more than 345 percent; and leisure and hospitality increased by 65 percent, according to U.S. Census data.

The improvements will:

- **Repeal the corridor's Planned Manufacturing District zoning east of Ogden Avenue.** Approximately 61 acres will change to Manufacturing and approximately two acres will change to Commercial zoning. No residential uses will be allowed.
- **Apply the City's Industrial Corridor System Fund to the area.** The fund will be supported by fees paid by development projects that are transitioning from manufacturing to other uses. The fees will be allocated for industrial projects in other portions of the city.
- **Establish an overlay district to regulate the use and density for new projects. The overlay will provide for a broader range of businesses while mitigating the potentially negative impacts of housing, entertainment and lodging uses. The overlay will also regulate projects seeking Downtown district zoning and participation in the Neighborhood Opportunity Bonus system.**

The "Fulton Market Innovation District" plan was adopted by the Chicago Plan Commission in 2014 following 10 community meetings and participation by more than 450 community stakeholders. The implementation of the land use proposals were subject to community meetings in August, September and October of this year.

The 854-acre Kinzie Corridor is one of 26 designated industrial corridors in the city. It contains approximately 800 businesses employing more than 15,000 employees.

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